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General Historic Statement

Robert Ragan Sr. Genealogy

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A general historic statement was made at the home of Robert Ragan Sr. on the 12th day of July, 1935, in which the general history of the Ragan family was given. The following is a summary of the facts as given by Robert Ragan Sr. in his own words.

The Ragan family was first known to me when I was born in Virginia, July 12, 1885. During the early years of my life I was told that my father, Robert Ragan Sr., was a soldier in the Civil War. He was a member of the 1st Virginia Cavalry and was with me when I was born.

My father, Robert Ragan Sr., is the son of Robert Ragan, who was born in Virginia, July 12, 1845. He was a member of the 1st Virginia Cavalry and was with me when I was born.

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General Historic Statement

A reunion of the Ragan family was held at the home of Reuben Ragan, near Ellettsville Indiana, on the 12th. day of July, 1888, it being the centennial anniversary of the birth of Robert Ragan, Jr. At that meeting a historic sketch of the family was read by its author, William H. Ragan, giving some of the families' early history, as follows:

"The oldest of the four brothers whose descendants we are, was born in Caroline County, Virginia, July 12, 1788. During the century which has intervened Time has displaced the heads of the family; Robert Ragan Sr., his wife and their four sons, Robert Jr., Abner, Reuben and Thompson, leaving upon the stage of action at this time remnants of their immediate families and their descendants reaching down to the third, fourth and fifth generations.

With the Star of Empire this family in its collateral branches has spread westward until it has occupied the great central valley of the continent.

Our grandparents moved from amongst friends and relatives in eastern Virginia to the newly settled regions of central Kentucky as early as 1794 or 95 where they early fell victims of a fatal malady, leaving the four small boys to be reared by, and amongst strangers. All authentic records of ancestral history beyond that of the generations preceding us are lost in the mists of uncertainty and doubt.

Our grandfather was a silver-smith by occupation and tradition, of a somewhat definite character, has it that he learned his trade in Philadelphia, which leads us to believe that he was a Pennsylvanian who had emigrated to Virginia in early life where he had become acquainted with and afterward married Miss Sally Samuel whose ancestors had from an early historic period been prominent in connection with Old Dominion affairs, and whose father Reuben Samuel was a Captain in the Revolutionary War. There is a further tradition based upon the nationality to which the family name unquestionably belongs that we are of Irish descent and that the first settlement was made in eastern Pennsylvania, and in all

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probability the Ragans in America are of our blood and descent. Another family tradition is to the effect that about the time of grandfather Ragan's removal from Virginia to Kentucky, a then unmarried brother, if not two of them, went southward to Carolina, Tennessee, or Georgia and were there lost sight of in the busy world.

A recent communication from Hon. J. H. Ragan, U. S. Senator from Texas, contains the following points of personal interest: "My great grandfather, Timothy Reagan, was an Irishman, who came to this country before the American Revolution and was a soldier in the Pennsylvania lines, and seriously wounded at the battle of Brandywine. He was a pioneer settler in eastern Pennsylvania when it was a part of North Carolina. My grandfather, Richard Reagan, and my father, Timothy, and myself were all born in what is now Sevier County, Tenn. I was separated from my family before I was grown and went to Texas, consequently know but little of other branches of the family; but I remember when I was a boy hearing our family speak of two of the sons of my great grandfather moving to what was then called the fever and ague country, north of the Ohio River. I am now 69 years old, and they went there before I was old enough to remember them, possibly before I was born. I have understood that some of our relations spell their names as you do. If we are relatives you may be descendants of these great uncles, or you may have descended from the family of my great grandfather who remained in Pennsylvania. After we left there I have the impression that the two great uncles, I have mentioned as going to the north of the Ohio River, were Reuben and Robert. I would be glad to know if I am right."

A letter from W. H. Ragan, of High Point North Carolina, states that he and his father were both born and reared in N. C., but his grandfather came to North Carolina from Pennsylvania when quite young and he thinks his great grandfather came from Ireland.

These letters are introduced to show that other branches of the Ragan family, like ourselves, have so lost the chain of descent as to be but little better off than we are; also through very strong circumstantial evidence showing that a careful investigation would lead us back to the patriot soldiers of the Revolution, as the great grandfather alike of Senator Ragan of Texas, W. H. Ragan, of North Carolina and of the writer.

The four orphan boys, before mentioned, were fortunately pro-

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vided with good homes among farmers, Robert and Thompson in the same family and Abner and Reuben with different parties, but all in the same neighborhood in Mercer County, Kentucky. Their opportunities for schooling, in the ordinary acceptation of the term, were necessarily meager though they grew into manhood with fair education, which was but the inevitable outgrowth of their natural inclinations.

They were close, critical observers and hence were, through life, students and learners. As they approached manhood's estate they were apprenticed to learn trades: Robert and Abner choosing the carpenters' trade, Reuben, the business of a tanner and Thompson, that of milling. In after life, however, each gave up his trade and drifting in the natural bent of his inclinations, resumed the occupation of his youth—agriculture with strong tendencies towards its esthetic branch, horticulture.

Robert and Abner married while in Kentucky, the former to Nancy Smith, and the latter to Mary S. McCoun. Thompson returned to Virginia and married Sally Samuel and Reuben who remained single until later in life married Jane B. Matthews, after settling in Indiana.

The four brothers, who as infants were pioneers in the settlement of central Kentucky, were in mature life also pioneers in the settlement of central Indiana. This was especially true in the case of Reuben, to a some what lesser degree in the case of Robert and Abner, and still less so in reference to Thompson, who remained in Kentucky the longest of all.

Through hasty argument, already presented, I have assumed that our paternal great great grandfather was a patriot and soldier in the Revolutionary War. In this there may be a shadow of doubt. However that may be, it is certain that our second national crisis, called forth a patriotic response from two of the four brothers Robert and Abner, the latter of whom with the elder Harrison witnessed the downfall of the great Tecumseh and the subsequent rout of Proctor's army; and of the younger generations a grandson fell from the line of duty during a more recent and desperate struggle for the supremacy of our national existence. There were others also of this family who bared their breasts to the leaden hail of rebellious wrath.

Some comments by the editor. Reuben Ragan was among the greatest and best pioneers. He traversed this country as early as 1818. He brought the first bluegrass seed to this region of country,

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and to him more than any other six men, the excellence of improved fruits of this region must be attributed. He was a philanthropist and patriot and died full of years and honor in 1869.

The place selected for the reunion was the old homestead of Reuben Ragan. The land was entered by him in 1822 and is still under the original patent bearing the signature of James Monroe. The place has never changed title. Aunt Jane still lives in the same house which her husband began to build in the fall of 1823.

Quite recently official records have been procured from Richmond, Virginia, in proof of the fact that Reuben Samuel, our great grandfather was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. Copies of the records are given below:—

In a volume in the State Library, entitled "Virginia Militia in the Revolutionary War", page 71, Section 35, the following appears: William Hill marched June 15, 1780, from Head Lynche's Tavern, Carolina County, under Captain James Johnson, Lieut. Pemberton and Ensign Reuben Samuel to Hillsboro, N. C. where a regiment was organized under Col. Holt Richardson of King William County, Virginia, and Lieut. Col. Glenn and May Boyd and put into the brigade of General Stephens. The army marched by Mast Ferry on the Pedee near Camden, where there was a battle between Gen. Gates and Lord Cornwallis." The above is attested below:

Richmond, Virginia,

Nov. 14, 1927.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy from this book mentioned above.

Rosina Mordicae (Recorder).

State of Virginia,

City of Richmond, to Wit:

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 14th, day of November, 1927.

Sealney C. Day, Jr.

Notary Public.

The following is found in Wingfield's history of Carolina County, Virginia.

"Roll of Carolina County men who qualified as officers in the Militia during the war of the Revolution, 1776 to 1781. Reuben Samuel, Lt. January, 1778."

The above records remove all doubts as to Reuben Samuel's services in the war of the Revolution.

We shall now give brief historic sketches of Robert Ragan, Sr., mentioning each family in the order of its descent. We were personally acquainted with his four sons who lived to mature age, having frequently visited all their homes. We also knew all of the third generation, except three or four who died in early life; and have known many members of the family down to the seventh generation.

ROBERT RAGAN, SR., b. in Pennsylvania, 1733; d. in Kentucky 1799; m. in Virginia about 1785, to Sally Samuel, b. 1760; d. 1799, in Kentucky during an epidemic—possibly cholera.

A. Spencer Ragan, b. 1786; d. 1796, in Kentucky.

B. Robert Ragan, Jr., second son of Robert Ragan, Sr., and Sally S. Ragan, was born in Carolina County, Virginia, July 12, 1783. He removed with his parents to Mercer County, Ky. About 1794 or 95. After the tragic death of his father and mother a few years later he and his three brothers were reared to young manhood by the friendly hands of neighbors. He and Nancy Smith were married on May 12, 1814. They remained in Kentucky for several years after their marriage, several of their children being born in that state. The date of their coming to Indiana is somewhat indefinite, but was probably not later than 1827 or 28. He entered a tract of land one half mile south of where New Winchester was afterwards located, which remained in his possession during his life. This land was in its native condition, being covered with forest trees. Building homes in Indiana during its early settlement was no easy task; but the pioneers were of sturdy character with a determination to succeed. First, places for the shelter of the family and live stock were provided. The building site, when possible, was located near a spring of sparkling water. This fact, in part, accounts for so many of the early homes being so far from public highways. Another reason may have been that, some houses were built before the surveying of the roads was made.

The houses of early settlers consisted of one or two rooms, and were built of logs, sometimes hewn, at other times, of logs in their natural shape. The chinks between the logs were filled with pieces of wood which were plastered over with clay mortar, both inside and out. The buildings were covered with boards, riven from the native oak timber. The rooms were provided with wide fire-places, both for

comfort of the inmates and the cooking of food. Some of the early homes had puncheon floors. Windows were made by removing a log from one side of the room and covering the opening with oiled paper.

Farms were enclosed by rail fences, the rails being made from oak, poplar and walnut timber, all of which grew in abundance in this country. If farmers now had the timber that was unnecessarily destroyed, it could be sold for several times the value of their land; but it seemed necessary to remove much of the timber in order to improve the country.

Many hardships were endured in pioneer life and no doubt Robert Ragan and his family had their share of them; since they were tillers of the soil and in horticultural pursuits.

They had a family of nine children, some of whom died in infancy or early childhood. Five of them lived to be old men. The children were reared on the farm and had no school advantages. The parents managed, by industry and economy, to give them fairly good educations—one or two of them receiving college degrees. The wife and mother was spared until the children were of mature age except those who died when young. She passed away September 12, 1853, in her sixtieth year.

After a time Robert and Mary J. Tinscher were married. Two children were born to this union, Henry S. and Oliver H. Ragan. Henry S. Ragan is the only member of the family now living. His father died Oct. 11, 1879, and his mother in 1901.

Sarah Ann Ragan, b. in Kentucky March 12, 1815; d. Feb. 4, 1819.

II **ZACHARIAH S. RAGAN**, eldest son of Robert Jr. and Nancy Ragan, was born in Kentucky April 17, 1817. When ten or twelve years old he came with his parents to Indiana. He shared in the activities and hardships incident to pioneer farm life in helping to make a comfortable home for the family. He and Maria Hanna were married on the 7th of March, 1847. Four children were born to them: Gilbert L., Nannie J., Laura E., and Emma M. His wife died May 4, 1856, leaving him with four small children. Mr. Ragan was not married again until after the close of the Civil War when he and Sinia Richardson were married Feb. 22, 1866.

Soon after the country became involved in Civil War, Mr. Ragan raised a company of volunteers in Clayton and vicinity, which was mustered into service as Company C, of the 70th. Regiment of Indiana Volunteers. This regiment was commanded by Col. Ben Harrison (afterwards Brigadier General and later still, President of the United States.) This regiment was engaged in some of the hard fought battles of the war. Dr. F. H. Huron, of Danville was a member of the 70th. Regiment and also in Captain Ragan's Company. For vallant services Captain Ragan was promoted to the rank of Major of his regiment. Major Ragan's home was in Danville, Indiana for a number of years after the war; but later he moved to California where he remained until June 10, 1889 when called on to surrender to our common enemy, Death. Three of his four children have died within the past seven years.

Four children:

1. Gilbert E. Ragan, b. 1849; d. 1923 m. Orlena Heinlelu in 1884.

Five children:

- (1) Robert H. Ragan, b. 1885; d. 1920 m. Mary J. Clark; 1914.

Two children

- a Robert Ragan, Jr. b. 1919.
- b Arthur Ragan, b. 1921.
- (2) Charles W. Ragan, b. 1887.
- (3) Estella N. Ragan, b. 1889.
- (4) Gilbert Ragan, Jr. b. 1890.
- (5) Eleanor Ragan, b. 1892.
- (6) Edward Ragan, b. 1894; m. Frances Pye, 1926.
2. Nannie J. Ragan, b. 1851; and is now living in Hollywood, California. We are greatly indebted to her for the interest she has taken in these historic sketches and for data furnished in regard to her father's family.
3. Laura E. Ragan, b. 1853; d. 1920; m. in 1877 to James H. Lewis, d. 1890.

Two children:

- (1) Minnie M. Lewis, b. 1878; m. William J. Sammons in 1904.

One child:

- a William A. Sammons, b. 1909.

- (2) James H. Lewis, Jr. b. 1880; m. Beatrice Chamberlain in 1921;

4. Emma M. Ragan, b. 1855; m. D. H. Huston 1878.

Four children:

- (1) Mable Clare Huston, b. 1880 m. Herbert C. Kettelle, in 1902.

Five children:

- a Russell R. Kettelle, b. 1903; m. Edith Huston, 1924.
- b Kent W. Kettelle, b. 1905; d. 1926.
- c Clare E. Kettelle, b. 1912; d. 1916.
- d Huston R. Kettelle, b. 1914.
- e Pearl C. Kettelle, b. 1914.

- (2) Nannie A. Huston, b. 1883; m. Victor C. Frisk, 1910.

Two children:

- a Victorita Frisk, b. 1912
- b Virginia M. Frisk, 1914.
- (3) Harry D. Huston, b. 1885.
- (4) Russell R. Huston, b. 1888; m. Theo. Church.

III REUBEN SAMUEL RAGAN, second son of Robert Ragan, Jr. was born in Kentucky in 1819. After coming to Indiana he remained on the farm several years and engaged in agriculture and horticulture pursuits with his father attending school when opportunities were offered and lived the life of a normal farm boy. He and Sallie Clifton Burton were married the exact date of which we are not informed. Their four children were: Ella H., Jennie P., Homer B., and Francis Ragan; all of whom are dead except Homer B. who lives in Los Angeles, California, and is connected with some banking interests in that city. In giving a sketch of his history we can not do better than to quote from a letter received from his son, Homer, a short time ago. "He lived the greater part of his mature years in Greencastle where he was Mayor of that city for a term. He was a member of the Indiana Legislature, as representative from Putman County the war legislature when Oliver P. Morton was governor. He was appointed as Colonel on Governor Morton's Staff and served during Morton's administration. Later he engaged in the storage, marketing and raising of fruits and berries. The Greencastle Fruit House was built and operated by him; and his brand had an excellent name in India-

napolis, La Fayette, Evansville, Louisville and other cities. He was a horticultural authority and delivered lectures at a number of pomological and horticultural societies besides contributing to farm and orchard publications. He was a consistent Christian and a member of the Presbyterian church, in which he was ruling Elder for over forty years.

His death occurred at Spencer, Indiana, as the result of a paralytic attack, and his funeral was conducted at Greencastle in 1895.

About forty years ago Cousin Sam visited our home while we were living at Avon. On the following Sunday we went to the White Lick Presbyterian church where he had an appointment to speak. So far as we know he was not an ordained minister, but did often take part in public worship.

Four children:

1. Ella Hemans Ragan, now deceased, m. William H. Miller, deceased.

One child:

- (1) Ella Miller.
2. Jennie Pearl Ragan, deceased, m. William H. Tunnell, deceased.
3. Homer B. Ragan, b. 1863; m. Leah May Kory. First wife.

One child:

- (1) Perry Cole Ragan, b. 1888; m. Lucille Mosher. Perry is a Captain in the U. S. Army.

Two children:

- a. Perry C. Ragan, Jr., b. 1913.
- b. Nancy T. Ragan, b. 1925.

Homer's second wife was Kitty E. Prewitt, b. 1867. No children by second marriage. Homer furnished data for his father's history, and all accessible history of his two sisters and his brother Frank.

4. Francis B. Ragan, b. 1866; d. 1924; m. Ethel—name unknown to me.

One son:

- (1) Francis Ragan, Jr.

We have had the pleasure of entertaining Frank a few times in our home since we moved to Plainfield.

iv. WILLIAM ADDISON RAGAN, son of Robert Ragan, Jr., was born in Mercer County, Ky., July 7, 1822. After a few years the family moved to Hendricks County, Indiana. During early manhood he went to Clayton where he was engaged in the nursery business for many years. He and Mary C. Hopwood were married May 29, 1851. Mrs. Ragan's father and mother, Moses and Susan Hopwood, came from Kentucky to Indiana at an early date and were pioneer settlers of Indiana. William A. and his wife were the first members received into the Cumberland Presbyterian church at Clayton. Their children were: William Edgar, Clara K., Nannie Belle (Dorrie), Jennie, Florence, Charles Moses and Lillie Gertrude. The father, mother, and four of the children have passed on, leaving Clara and Charles M. Clara and her husband, Henry H. Mills have been in California for a number of years and are now living in Los Angeles. Charles M. and family are in Kansas City, Mo. We have pleasant memories of visits at the home of Will. A. Ragan years ago. The cordial welcome of the family and attractive surroundings of the home made lasting impressions in our memory. Having been there during the fruit and floral season, our visits can not be well forgotten, but all pleasant things of this life must come to an end sooner or later.

William A. Ragan died March 11, 1923 and his wife died a short time later.

Six children:

1. William Edgar Ragan, b. April 3, 1852; d. Feb. 12, 1923; m. in 1876 to Mattie Vaughn, b. 1857. We are sorry that more of Will's history can not be given in this sketch. While in conversation with Dr. W. T. Lawson a day or two ago he mentioned having been in Wabash College with Will E. Ragan more than fifty years ago.

Two children:

- (1) Arthur Ragan, b. June 5, 1878; m. Alice Alone. No children.
- (2) Lillian M. Ragan, b. Jan. 1888; m. Aniel Bannowsky, May 16, 1917.

One child:

- a. Jean Emily, b. July 16, 1924.
2. Clara K. Ragan, b. Aug. 17, 1854; m. in 1878 to Henry H.

Mills, b. Nov. 5, 1853. They were married in the Cumberland Presbyterian church at Clayton. Some years ago Clara and her husband were both officially connected with the Indiana Boys' School. That however, was before I was employed there as School Physician. We are truly grateful to Clara and all others who have manifested an interest in this historic sketch of the Ragan family.

Three children:

- (1) Infant Son, b. April 15, 1879; died the same day.
- (2) Flossie Bertina Mills, b. April 29, 1880.
- (3) Infant Son, b. June 18, 1893.
- 3 Nannie B. Ragan, b. April 28, 1857; d. Oct. 10, 1896; m. May 31, 1883 to Benjamin E. Blake, b. April 12, 1860; d. 1894.

Three children:

- (1) Infant Daughter, b. May 16, 1854; died same day of birth.
- (2) Mary Madge Blake, b. Feb. 4, 1886; m. Nov. 9, 1912; to Robert Miller.

Two children:

- a Isabelle A. Miller, b. Aug. 5, 1914.
- b Robert B. Miller, b. April 25, 1920.
- (3) Infant Son, b. Oct. 5, 1887.
- 4 Jennie Florence Ragan, b. July 13, 1860, d. Oct. 10, 1896.
- 5 Charles Moses Ragan, b. July 26, 1862; m. Sep. 12, 1886; to Louise Fowler, b. 1864.

Five children:

- (1) Wallace C. Ragan, b. Nov. 11, 1887; m. Aug 3 1912; to Enid Campbell.

Two children:

- a Enid Louise, b. Dec. 17, 1913.
- b Wallace C. Ragan, Jr., Oct. 4, 1918.
- (2) Joanna F. Ragan, b. Aug. 22, 1899; m. Nov. 24, 1915; Stephen Taylor.

Two children:

- a Cora Louise, b. Sep. 10, 1910.
- b George Lee Taylor, b. Sept. 10, 1917.
- (3) Raymond Fowler Ragan, b. Jan. 1, 1892; m. April 2; 1918; Elizabeth Ham.

No children:

- (4) Robert E. Ragan, b. Aug. 15, 1893; m. in June 1916; Hazel Parker.

Four children:

- a Hazel Roberta Ragan, b. Nov. 29, 1917.
- b Charles M. Ragan, Jr., b. Jan. 2, 1919; d. Jan. 27, 1919.
- c Elizabeth Joanna Ragan, b. March 19, 1923.
- d Robert Edwin Ragan, b. Oct. 6, 1925.
- (5) Margaret L. Ragan, b. Oct. 23, 1866; m. Dec. 22, 1915; Uriel S. Ham.

Four children:

- a Edwin Alfred Ham, b. July 15, 1920.
 - b Hazel Margaret Ham, b. March 26, 1922.
 - c Charles Fowler Ham, b. Oct. 16, 1923.
 - d Josie June Ham, b. Oct. 28, 1925.
 - 6 Little Gertrude Ragan, b. May 14, 1867; d. Oct. 1, 1912.
- We are greatly indebted to Charles M. for facts concerning his family. I remember Nannie B. (Dovfe) quite well. She began teaching about the time I began practicing medicine.

- v Christopher C. Ragan, b. July 4, 1823; d. July 12, 1921.
- vi Jeremiah R. Ragan, b. May 1, 1825; d. in Indianapolis Aug. 28, 1849.

- vii Isabella T. Ragan, b. March 29, 1828; d. Feb. 29, 1840.

- viii GILLUM TAYLOR RAGAN, b. in Indiana July 5, 1831; d. in Neoga, Illinois, July 3, 1914; was the eighth child of Robert and Nancy Smith Ragan. He was reared on the farm near New Winchester, Indiana, and engaged in the activities of farm life, attending school as much as possible while at home and later went to Wabash College at Crawfordsville, from which school he graduated, in 1860. "Soon after graduating, with Flam McCord he established an Academy at Bainbridge, Indiana which was fairly successful for a time, but had to be abandoned later, as the young man went away to the war. He then went to Nashville, Tennessee and engaged in hospital work; going on to Washington, D. C., he entered the Quarter Master General's office, and while there pursued the study of medicine at Georgetown University, D.C. He graduated from that school in the spring of 1866. He was married to Miss

Sallie Osburne, in Louisville, Kentucky the same year of his graduation in medicine.

After his marriage in May, and a short honeymoon trip to Washington D. C., he and his wife went to New Winchester, Indiana where he began the practice of medicine. In 1869 they moved to Neoga, Illinois, where he spent the best of his years in the practice of his chosen profession, having unusual success with pulmonary diseases and in obstetrics. He was esteemed and loved as a true Christian physician. His death occurred July 8, 1914 in the dear old home he established in Neoga, Illinois. Sallie Osbourne Ragan, his lovely wife, died Nov. 15, 1915 at the home of their youngest child, Lucia R. Hammond in Brooklyn New York."

Their children are: Cynthia Julia, Samuel Osbourne, Robert Russell, a son, Gillum, who lived one day, Belle Morrow, Carroll Stewart, Sara Buford, and Lucia Faris. Eight children.

1 Cynthia Julia Ragan, b. in New Winchester, Indiana: April 29, 1867; the parents moved to Neoga, Illinois on the following year. She attended the Depauw school of music for a while at Greencastle, Indiana and later was married to Eben Ringo Black of Greencastle, the wedding occurring at her home in Neoga, Illinois, Oct. 5, 1887. They made their home in Greencastle for two and a half year, then moved to Cheyenne, Wyoming. They have been in Lincoln, Nebraska for some years where Mr. Black is connected with the Daily Star of that city. They are members of the Westminster Presbyterian church. Mrs. Black has taken quite an interest in the preparation of historic sketches of the Ragan families and has furnished much historic data, not only for her own branch of the family but for others as well.

Their children are: Marjorie, Evelyn, Oswald, Malcolm R., Ernestine and Carroll E.

(1) Marjorie Black, m. Elton L. Tyner. Their home is in Kansas City, Mo. Marjorie Black was a voice student in the University of Nebraska School of Music for three years before her marriage.

Two children:

1 Stanley Tyner.

b Marcia Tyner.

(2) Evelyn Black, m. Albyn Wilcox. She is a graduate of the University of Nebraska and has talent as a singer. They live in Sheridan, Wyoming where Mr. Wilcox is in the wholesale and retail oil business. They have one daughter. Mrs. Wilcox was a teacher before her marriage.

a Marial Wilcox:

(3) Oswald R. Black, m. Alone C. Black. He is head of the Art Department of the Lincoln Daily Star. He had five years in the University of Nebraska; has been an Elder in the Westminster church for four years.

One daughter:

a Virginia Hains Black:

(4) Malcolm Ringo Black, since leaving the University has been with the Lincoln Joint Stock Land Bank. He is unmarried. His work is selling farms for the bank and he travels in Nebraska and adjoining states.

(5) Ernestine Black, m. Raymond Lyie Wolfe. She was a teacher before her marriage, and was a student in the University of Nebraska. Their home is in Kate, Alaska where they are engaged in the Government service. Mr. Wolfe is a lawyer.

(6) Carroll Eben Black is a senior in Wabash College at Crawfordsville. He spent one semester in the University of Nebraska, then went to Wabash College where so many of the Black's and Ragan's spent their college days.

2 Samuel Osbourne Ragan, son of Gillum and Sallie Ragan, was born in Neoga, Illinois Aug. 10, 1889; m. Mrs. Anna Carter in Minneapolis Minnesota, then moved to Everett, Washington, where he was engaged in the County Treasurer's office for four years. Died Dec. 12, 1917, his wife dying a few years later. They had no children.

3 Robert Russell Ragan, b. in Neoga, Illinois, March 31, 1871; m. Aida Shelley Indianapolis, Indiana, Feb. 5, 1901. He graduated from Wabash College in 1894. He has been in the wholesale produce business since 1894. He is Vice-President of the Wauley Company of Indianapolis, Indiana.

Their children are:

- (1) Russell Earl Ragan, b. Nov. 28, 1901; graduated from Wabash College in 1923. He and Josephine Koons were married. They live in Springfield Mass. He is New England representative of his father's company.

They have one child:

- 1 Robert Russell Ragan, if
- (2) Dorothy Ragan, b. Oct. 24, 1908. She is a student in Butler University, Indianapolis.
- + Giliam Ragan, b. Dec. 24, 1873; d. Dec. 24, 1873.
- 5 Belle Morrow Ragan, b. March 6, 1875, in Neoga, Illinois; m. Charles Benson Wood, Oct. 3, 1895. She died in Mattoon, Illinois, April 1921.

Four children:

- (1) Loyall McNair Wood, b. in Neoga, Feb. 24, 1909.
- (2) Charles Benson Wood, Jr., b. May 8, 1911; d. in Mattoon, Illinois, Aug. 3, 1913.
- (3) Evelyn Rosemary Wood, b. in Mattoon, 1912.
- (4) Robert Hammond Wood, b. Nov. 1915; d. in Mattoon Oct. 7, 1916.
- 6 Carroll Stewart Ragan, b. Oct. 5, 1879; m. Mildred Schlessinger, Feb. 6, 1915. He was a student two years at the Illinois State University and after two year's work at Wabash College received his diploma.

Four children:

- (1) Malcolm S. Ragan, b. Nov. 8, 1915.
- (2) Robert Ousbourn Ragan, b. Feb. 16, 1921; d. Sept. 5, 1925.
- (3) Nancy Lee Ragan, b. Feb. 25, 1922.
- (4) Richard Carroll Ragan, b. Nov. 15, 1923.
- 7 Sara Binford Ragan, b. in Neoga, Ill. July 10, 1833; she was married to William Gardiner Hammond of New York City, June 27, 1906. She took voice culture in Chicago and Rochester, New York.

One son:

- (1) George T. Hammond, who is a student in Columbia University, New York.
- 8 Lucia Faris Ragan, b. in Neoga, April 15, 1838. She

was a student in piano and voice and took kindergarten work in Columbia University, N. Y. City. She was married to Charles Frederick Hammond, a brother of William C. Hammond. They live in Westerly, Rhode Island.

Two children:

- (1) Marcelle H. Hammond, b. in Brooklyn, N. Y. March 20, 1915.
- (2) Sallie Hammond, b. in Brooklyn N. Y. March 7, 1916.

ix ROBERT EDGAR RAGAN, b. Feb. 6, 1834; in Indiana, died in Denver, Colorado July 25, 1872. He was a teacher in the public schools for a few years before the beginning of the civil war. He enlisted as a private in the army and continued service in that capacity for two years. It is my understanding that he was injured in a railroad wreck while returning home, from which injury he never fully recovered. He was not married.

x HENRY SPENCER RAGAN, b. Feb. 24, 1856; m. Sarah Tony, b. Dec. 22, 1856. His wife died April 2, 1911. They had no children. He was not married again for several years, then he and Miss Jennie Tiocher were married. He owns part of the old farm that was entered by his father, Robert Ragan, Jr. They have a commodious well arranged home and are engaged in general farming, dairy and poultry business. Cap and Jennie are good entertainers and always welcome the relatives and many friends to their home.

xi OLIVER H. RAGAN, b. May 24, 1858; d. Dec. 14, 1909. Oliver was married three times, all of the women being dead, the last of whom was Belle Kimble Ragan, who died in 1911.

One child:

- 1 Lorine Ragan, b. Dec. 29, 1895; m. Frank Boyd.

Two children:

- (1) Lora Boyd.
- (2) William Boyd.

C. Stephen Ragan, son of Robert Ragan, Sr. b. 1790; d. 1790.

D. ABNER RAGAN, son of Robert Ragan, Sr. was born in Carolina County, Virginia, October 9, 1791. The family moved

to Mercer County, Kentucky about 1794 or 95. The untimely death of the father and mother left four small boys among strangers. Subsequent events, however, showed that kind hearted neighbors came to the rescue and gave the children homes and put them on the way to future usefulness. In 1811 Abner enlisted in the army and served under William H. Harrison in the campaign against the Indians. He was in the battle of Tippecanoe where Tecumseh's army was so badly defeated. Abner and Mary S. McCoun were married September 22, 1817. His wife was a sister of "Uncle Bob McCoun", a resident of Danville for so many years. In 1825 the family moved to Indiana and settled in Putnam County near the home of his brother Reuben. They remained in Putnam County until after the death of the wife and mother in 1829. Their children were: Eliza, James M., Sarah A., Sophia, John M. and Mary J., the latter of whom died in infancy. In 1832 Abner and Rosanna Smith were married; then the family settled on the Rock Branch farm three and one half miles north west of New Winchester. A comfortable home was made on this farm where he engaged in agriculture and the growing of fruits and nursery trees. He was fond of hunting and fishing and often engaged in these sports. During the early settlement of the country wild game was plentiful; such as deer, turkeys, bears, besides squirrels and other forest game. Abner had a long barreled, muzzle loading rifle that served him well, for killing game for food and pelts. He was a good marksman and could bring squirrels from the tops of the forest trees. His home was one and a half miles from a creek that contained an abundance of fish. During the fishing season he often spent hours near the deep holes in the creek which had previously been baited with shelled corn to attract the fish. These fishing excursions not only furnished palatable food but were sources of pleasure as well. We boys often wanted to accompany grandfather to the creek but, doubtless older heads advised against asking permission to go, knowing that noisy boys frightened the finny tribe from the hook.

Abner had a generous share of native ingenuity and his early training as a carpenter had taught him the use of tools.

His house was located on slightly elevated ground some ten rods from a deep spring of water. As a labor saving device he built two tracks about two feet apart and on these tracks he placed a small truck with a suspended vessel beneath for carrying water. When in need of water the truck was released from its mooring at the porch when it glided down to the spring where the vessel dipped and filled itself with water. The truck was then drawn to the house by means of a rope and pulley, operated from the porch. This ingenious "railroad" as it was called, attracted a good deal of attention in that part of the country.

Mr. Ragan had been a teacher in early life, but was not an educated man in the ordinary sense of the term; yet by reading, close observance and retentive memory he acquired a goodly store of useful information that he could use to good advantage as occasion required. As a boy I often wished for such an accurate memory and logical mind as he possessed.

Grandfather died July 30, 1864. Grandmother lived until some years later.

Six children:

1. Eliza Ragan, oldest child of Abner and Mary S. Ragan, was born in Kentucky, August 15, 1821. She came with her parents to Indiana 1825, living in Putnam County for a few years then moving to the Rock Branch farm in Hendricks County. She and James W. Bryan were married in 1838, and settled on their farm which joined that of her father. Her husband died in 1845, leaving his widow with four small children. She remained on the farm until about 1875 or 76, when she, with her son and daughter, Henry and Mary E. with their families went to Nebraska. She continued to be the same quiet, unassuming, helpful Aunt Eliza. She passed from this life to a perfect one in 1886.

Four children:

1. Mary Elizabeth Bryan, b. Nov. 3, 1839; m. to Milton Slavens June 19, 1862. Her husband served more than two years in the Civil War. Their children were: Rosa Ellen, Harvey Abner, Mary Eliza, and James Garfield.

Four children:

- (1) Rosa E. Slavens, b. June 11, 1863; m. June 2, 1882; to William F. Kortright, b. April 7, 1857.

Rosa Kortright takes an active interest in the advancement of the Christian church. She is also an enthusiastic supporter of the cause of temperance. While visiting at our home last fall the Ragan Family history was mentioned, when she offered to render all assistance she could for its completion.

Eight children—one pair of twin boys.

- a Harry M. Kortright, b. April 25, 1883; m. Oct. 25, 1909, to Anna L. Nicholson.

One child:

- (a) June Irene, b. May 20, 1924.
b Della May, b. July 16, 1887; d. July 23, 1887.
c Viola Linnett Kortright, b. Aug. 3, 1888; d. Feb. 26, 1904.
d Olive Blanche Kortright b. Aug. 3, 1892; d. Aug. 1, 1907.
e-f Twin boys, b. March 25, 1894; d. March 25, 1894.
g Charles Ford Kortright, b. Sept. 26, 1893; m. Nov. 7, 1922, to Lella Tennent.

Three children:

- (a) Ellen Mae Kortright, b. Oct. 20, 1923.
(b) Barbara Geane Kortright, b. Nov. 27, 1924.
(c) Harold Kortright b. Feb. 22, 1926.
h Nellie Belle Kortright, b. May 13, 1901; m. June 8, 1921, to Carl Evey.

- (2) Harvey Abner Slavens, b. May 29, 1866; d. Aug. 11, 1867.

- (3) Mary Eliza Slavens, second daughter of Milton and Mary E. Slavens, was born Nov. 22, 1863 in Indiana; she was married to Samuel Dunning at Pleasant Hill, Mo. June 20, 1886. They are now living near Farmington, Illinois where they are engaged in farming. She has an interest in the progress of W. O. T. U. and in all other lines of work tending towards the betterment of the country. She is a member of the Christian church and helps to advance its interests. She has taken an interest in the preparation of these

sketches of the Ragan family. Their children are Bessie Ella, Katharine Eliza, Edna Lora, Glen Melvin and Emma Phoebe.

Five children:

- a Bessie Ella Dunning, b. Oct. 23, 1888; m. at Farmington, Illinois, June 19, 1908, to Luther Owens. She died at Farmington, March 5, 1911.

One son:

- (a) Lewis Owens—lived 20 months.
b Katharine Eliza Dunning, b. Dec. 23, 1890; d. at Pleasant Hill, Nebr. July 18, 1893.
c Edna Dunning, b. Aug. 12, 1893; m. at Middle Grove, Illinois, to John Oppen. Sept. 26, 1916.

Two children:

- (a) John Edward Oppen, b. Oct. 7, 1917.
(b) Bettie Erma Oppen, b. May 19, 1923.
d Glen Melvin Dunning, b. Sept. 30, 1902; m. in Iowa to Edna Watkins, of Canton, Illinois.
e Erma Phoebe Dunning, b. Dec. 30, 1905. She is unmarried and at home.
(4) James Garfield Slavens, b. Nov. 20, 1880; m. to Agnes Langdon, June 30, 1907. They have five children, four girls and one boy. The oldest daughter is married and has one child. They live in Olympia, Washington, where he is connected with the Pine Tree Lumber Company.

- 2 William Henry Bryan, b. July 21, 1841, in Indiana; d. in Missouri, Jan. 10, 1896. He was married to Bardeney Bryant in 1871. She was born in March 1843, d. in Missouri, Feb. 11, 1896. The family moved to Nebraska about 1876 or 77, where they remained a number of years, then went to Mo. He was a farmer and also in the timber business for some time. Their children are Abner Thomas, Minnie Phoebe, James Warren, Sarah Ann, Mary Eliza, Sophia Thompson, Rhoda Belle and Henry Archibald.

Eight children:

- (1) Abner Thomas Bryan, b. March 4, 1872.
(2) Minnie Phoebe Bryan, b. Oct. 1, 1873; d. Dec. 26, 1900

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m. May 24, 1900 to Mr. Pratt.

- (3) James Warren Bryan, b. Sept. 6, 1875.
- (4) Sarah Ann Bryan, b. Dec. 19, 1877.
- (5) Mary Eliza Bryan, b. Oct. 23, 1879; m. Mr. Shannon. Mary died Feb. 14, 1909. She left five children, three boys and two girls. Three of the children are living.
- (6) Sophia Thompson Bryan, b. July 25, 1881; m. Mr. Pike. They are living near Cartersville, Missouri.
- (7) Rhoda Belle Bryan, b. March 2, 1883, m. Mr. Rice. Rhoda left eight children, six boys and two girls. All are living.

(8) Henry Archibald Bryan, b. Jan. 20, 1886.
 3 Abner Bryan, second son of James W. and Eliza Bryan, was born in 1843; died in 1882. He was a young man of excellent natural endowments and was a general favorite with all his friends and associates. When ominous war clouds enveloped the country he broke away from school and home ties and entered the army as a soldier in the Civil War.

As I remember his army record he enlisted in a Company being recruited by Captain Jacob H. Fleece at North Salem. The company later became Co. A. of the Fifty-first Regiment of Indiana Volunteers, commanded by Colonel A. D. Straight, of Indianapolis. He became fatally ill before his regiment left the state, while encamped at New Albany, Indiana. His body was brought home and laid to rest in the Abner Rigan Cemetery.

Sarah Bryan, daughter of James W. and Eliza Bryan, b. in 1845; d. 1858. She was never physical strong. She became an invalid several years before her death.

JAMES M. RAGAN, eldest son of Abner and Mary S. Ragan, was born in Mercer County, Kentucky, June 7, 1821. When he was about six years of age the family moved to Putnam County, Indiana. In 1831 or 32 they went from there to the Rock Branch neighborhood in Hendricks County and settled on a farm that his father had entered a short time before. When old enough, James assisted his father in developing the farm, and during part of the

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winter months he went to school whenever opportunities were offered. Schools at that time were scarcely worthy the name, as there was no money to build or conduct free schools until many years later. Free schools were not established until in the early fifties. The first free school in Indianapolis was taught in 1853, as I now recall its history. Notwithstanding his handicaps he had a goodly amount of general information. In 1843 he bought 160 acres of land and added several acres to that the next year.

He and Lucy Ann Smith were married August 27, 1841. A two room house was built on one of his farms which was added to from time to time, until they had a comfortable home. A family of eight children were born in this home. The farm activities were of a varied nature; agriculture, horticulture and the raising of livestock—especially horses. He often had twelve to eighteen horses on the farm, making it necessary to break some of them to ride and work almost every spring. The principle means for travelling when were either on horseback or in a two horse wagon. There were several boys in the family and all liked to go places. We gladly "broke the colts to ride" in order to have saddle horses when needed. The children were taught to work at an early age, either on the farm or about the house.

We had two apple orchards and one or two peach orchards; and dried considerable fruit every year, besides doing other necessary farm work; but with all that we had some time for recreation and amusement. The annual "taffy pulling" was a notable occasion for enjoyment. We managed a large sorghum factory for a number of years and made from a few hundred to more than sixteen hundred gallons of molasses during the fall. At some time during the season, a moon-night night was selected for the "Big Stir Off;" when two or three dozen young people were invited to the "Taffy pulling." The hilarity and fun on these occasions can better be imagined than described.

Father and mother both died during the year 1872. mother on 13th of June and father the 6th of August.

Their children were—

f Mary Agnes Ragan, b. in Hendricks County, Nov. 20, 1847; d. March 25, 1896; m. in 1863 to Willis Slavens, b. 1835. Willis was a soldier in the Civil War for more than three years.

He first enlisted in Co. A. of the fifty-first Regiment Indiana Volunteers. The company was organized at North Salem under Captaincy of Jacob H. Fleece. The company was placed in the 51st. Regiment, commanded by Col. A. D. Streight, of Indianapolis. He served in this regiment until disabled for duty when he was mustered out of service. After recuperating his health he volunteered again; this time in the 9th Cavalry, commanded by Col. Jackson, and was mustered out of service at the close of the war.

After the death of Mary's parents, she and her family moved into the home of her father and assumed the place of mother of the younger brothers. No one could have performed that arduous obligation more faithfully than did she. After a lingering illness she passed on to her final reward, March 25, 1896. Her husband died in 1924 at the advanced age of 89 years.

They have one child:

- (1) Della Slavens, b. May 11, 1870; who has had her share of home responsibilities; besides rearing their children, her Uncle Will Ragan made his home with them several years, and her father was with them after the death of his wife. She and Alph Trotter were married December 12, 1897. Their home is near North Salem, where he is engaged in agriculture and live stock business.

Their children are:

- a Mary Helen Trotter, b. October 4, 1893; after graduating from North Salem High School she was married to Walter Bullion in 1921. Their home is near New Maysville, where he is engaged in farming and feeding cattle and hogs extensively. They have no children.
- b Maurice Trotter, b. May 8, 1900; graduated from North Salem High School, then entered Purdue University at LaFayette, where he finished the

course in 1923. Since then, he with a friend made an auto trip to California; after returning from there he has taught high schools in West Virginia, one year, in Terre Haute, Indiana, and is now in his second year's work in Michigan. In these schools he has taught science and athletics. He is thought to be an expert in several lines of athletic activities. He has considerable ability as an artist and has painted a number of very creditable pictures.

- c Frank H. Trotter, b. 1902; graduated from North Salem High School, and was married soon after, to Lenore Owens, 1923. He has taken up the occupation of his father and is in charge of a large stock and grain farm near North Salem. He seems to have the ability to succeed in that line of work and will doubtless make a success.

They have one child:

- (a) Jo Ann Trotter, b. 1925.

2

John S. Ragan, b. in Hendricks County, July 5, 1849; worked on his father's farm and went to district schools part of each winter until he was eighteen years old; then attended the Ladoga Academy to prepare for teaching. He taught in the public schools of Hendricks County for about nine years, the last two as principal of the North Salem schools. He began the study of medicine with Doctor T. J. Adams during the last year of his teaching. He then attended medical lectures at Cincinnati, Ohio, and at Indianapolis, graduating from the Medical College of Indiana in 1870. He has had more than fifty years experience in practice, having practiced a short time before graduating. He was at Avon seventeen years, at Denver, Colorado about one year, then went to Plainfield in 1896 and has practiced there and at the Indiana Boys' School since that time—about eighteen years at the school.

He and Miss Jennie Vickrey, of Reno, were married Jan. 1, 1880. They made their home at Avon where he had lived since in 1877. She had taught school several years before her marriage, and was an active worker in the church and Sunday School. During the second ep-

idence of, the so called, gripe in 1891 she became seriously ill with that disease which left her health so much impaired that they moved to Denver, Colorado, hoping that she might be restored to health again. Expected relief was not realized and the family returned to Avon in May of the next year. Mrs. Ragan lived only about one month after returning home. Their children are Charles E. and Mary I. Ragan.

Dr. Ragan's second marriage was Feb. 14, 1894 to Mrs. Mary E. Cooper, of Danville, who had one daughter, Katharine V. Cooper, by a former marriage. His wife readily assumed a mother's care of the three children and did her part admirably in that capacity, and in making a good home for the family.

She was interested in church and Sunday School and taught a company of boys for six years while at the Boy's School. She rendered valuable aid in preparing historic sketches of the thirteen Christian churches of Hendricks County. During his fifty years in the practice of medicine Doctor Ragan read many medical papers before his county and district medical meetings, the last one being: Fifty Years in the Practice of Medicine, Then and Now, in which was reviewed some of the outstanding advancements in medicine and surgery during the last half century. He has been an Elder in the Plainfield Christian church since 1894.

Two children by the first marriage.

- (1) Charles E. Ragan, b. Aug. 3, 1891. After graduating from the Plainfield High School and one year in Butler College he taught two years in the public schools; then studied medicine, taking one term of lectures in Louisville, Kentucky, and graduating from the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Indianapolis after two years work in that college. He located at Clinton, Indiana, in 1906, where he had a lucrative business until he decided to give up general practice and enter a specialty. He then located in Terre Haute, Indiana, and since that time has given his attention to anaesthetics. He has taken post work in his specialty in Chicago, Toledo, Ohio, and Boston.

Mass. He and Miss Evangeline Trotter, of Danville, were married Dec. 25, 1910. She had special training in music and is a graduate from the Metropolitan School of Music at Indianapolis. She taught piano for a time before her marriage.

They have one child:

- a Mary Helen Ragan, b. in Clinton, May 29, 1912. She is a Junior in a Terre Haute High School and hopes to enter college when her High School course is completed. She takes considerable interest in Music.

- (2) Mary Irma Ragan, b. Nov. 24, 1886. She graduated from Plainfield High School and took one year's work in Colorado College, at Colorado Springs; then taught in the public schools for a while. She has a good voice and is frequently called on to sing for public occasions. She and Ralph J. Bly were married June 24, 1909. Mr. Bly has talent as a pianist and is a member of the Plainfield Orchestra. He was Assistant Cashier of the First National Bank at Plainfield for a number of years. He is now an Assistant State Bank Examiner.

Their two children are Wendell R. and Harold J. Bly.

- a Wendell Ragan Bly, b. May 20, 1910. He is a Senior in the Plainfield High School and is a member of the school band and orchestra. He plays the clarinet.
- b Harold Joseph Bly, b. April 17, 1912. He is a member of the Plainfield High School and belongs to the school band and orchestra. He has considerable talent as a violinist. I look forward to the time when the "Bly Family" will furnish music on various occasions. Katharine V. Cooper is not related to the Ragans, but has been a member of the family since the marriage of her mother to J. S. Ragan in 1894. After graduating from the High School she taught one year at the Indiana Boys' School, then taught several years at Safety Harbor, Florida. She is now in the Blaker College, studying primary work. She and P. C. O'Haver were married in June, 1915. Mr. O'Haver is a graduate of DePaul College, also of a Florida College, and has

taught several years. They have two daughters, Mary Lou, eleven years old, and Eleanor-Katharine, nine years old.

3. Abner Ragan, Jr., b. July 15, 1851; m. to Katharine Culbertson about 1883 or 84. Soon after their marriage they moved to Sidney, Nebraska, where he engaged in mercantile business; dealing in lumber and other building materials. He was also a contractor and builder for several years, but later he became interested in a ranch not far from Sidney. His wife died in 1889, a few days after the birth of their second daughter, Katherine. In 1892 he again married; this time to Mrs. Jane Boggs, b. Feb. 24, 1851. She is now living in California with her son, Samuel Boggs. Abner died in 1910, after a protracted illness, which incapacitated him for business of all kinds.

There were two daughters by the first marriage.

(1) Della Ragan, b. in Sidney, Nebraska, in 1885; m. when quite young to James Williams. They had one child, Bernice. Her second husband was Mr. Cash. He is not living. There were no children by this marriage. Della and daughter, Bernice, are in California.

(2) Catherine E. Ragan, b. in Sidney, Nebraska in 1889. The mother died when Catherine was about one week old. In the goodness of their hearts James E. Ragan and his wife took the babe to rear as one of their own children. We have no doubt but that Catherine has always thought of her adopted parents as father and mother. She was married to Clyde H. Nash, who died in 1919.

Their son is;

a James H. Nash, b. 1916.

4 Zachariah Ragan, twin brother of Abner, b. in Hendricks County, July 15, 1851, m. to Miss Mattie Sowder in October, 1871. He is endowed with skill, such as his grandfather possessed, as a mechanic. He was a contractor and builder for a number of years. During the past few years he has given up mechanical pursuits and is looking after the interests of his farm. He fed a bunch

of cattle each year for several years, but since his health is somewhat declining his days for strenuous labor are in the past. His wife died a number of years ago. He and Mrs. Libbie Martin were married a few years ago. They have a cozy modern home in North Salem and seem to be taking life easy.

One daughter by first marriage;

(1) Alda Ragan, b. in 1874, in Hendricks County. She was married to Grant Spears. They lived on their farm until a few years ago when they bought a few acres adjoining North Salem and built a nice home on it, where they are now living. They have no children.

5 Reuben S. Ragan, b. July 13, 1854; d. October 25, 1861. He had been in his unusual good health during the day and the family made a visit to Grandmother Smith's. After returning home he became seriously ill and passed away before midnight.

6 James B. Ragan, son of James M. and Lucy, A. Ragan, was born in Hendricks County, Indiana, September 30, 1856. He was reared on the farm and attended the public schools during part of each year until he was seventeen or eighteen years old, when he entered the Indiana State Normal at Terre Haute, from which school he graduated in 1881. Soon after his graduation he and Miss May E. Hathaway, of Muncie, Indiana, were married. Much of his life has been devoted to educational pursuits. He taught five years in the country and high schools of Hendricks County. He and Cyrus W. Hodgin were Associate Principals in the Richmond, Ind., Normal School, four years. In 1887 the family moved to Sidney, Nebraska, where he engaged in the mercantile business for several years, but his interest in the schools was not abated for he served five years as President of the board of education, and he and his wife instituted in Sidney the first Public School Kindergarten west of St. Louis. He was Principal of Schools in Lincoln, Nebraska one year; He then went to Denver, Colorado, where he taught in the Denver and North Denver schools for nearly twenty years, most of the time as Principal or Superintendent of schools. Later he was Principal of the High Schools in Canon

City and Castle Rock for several years. Then he organized and developed the Industrial Arts High School at Sterling, Colorado.

Governor James B. Orman appointed Mr. Ragan director of the Colorado Education Exhibit for the St. Louis Exposition, for 1902 to 1905, where by the efficient and artistic assistance of his wife they secured for the Colorado Exhibit four or five Grand Prizes and fifty medals—bronze, silver and gold. He was awarded a diploma and a gold medal for the character, completeness and arrangement of the exhibit. In 1910 he finished a Post Graduate Course in the Teacher's College, receiving an A. M. degree. He was Regent of the University of Colorado for eight years, and was awarded a Complimentary Life License to teach in that state; he also holds Life Licenses in other states.

He has written many articles and editorials for different publications on political issues as well as education. He has been a Mason for many years; has been a member of the Christian church since he was fourteen years old, and is now identified with the Central Christian Church of Denver.

Mary E. Ragan, wife of James B. Ragan, was born in 1859. She was educated in Muncie schools and in the State Normal College, graduating in 1881. She taught several years in the rural schools and in the Danville and Muncie High schools, and for a short time in the State Normal. She designed the hammer that was selected for the last nail in the Women's Building for the Chicago World's Fair, this hammer being given by the women of Nebraska. After moving to Denver she established Kitchen Gardens in the poorer sections of North Denver and also gave encouragement to Kindergartens in the public schools. In 1909, she and her daughter, Catharine, took work in Home Economics in the Colorado Agricultural College.

After the death of Abner Ragan's wife, it was she who suggested taking their week old daughter, Catharine. She was called away, it seemed, at the time of her greatest usefulness in 1910.

Their children are:

- (1) Ruth Ragan, b. in Richmond, Indiana, 1884. She was educated in Kindergarten, common and high schools, took Liberal Arts Course in Colorado College, receiving A. B. degree, and Phi Beta Kappa honors; taught in Castle Rock and Denver High Schools. She became fully identified with Y. W. C. A. work in Denver regional work, 1911-1912.

She was sent to Tokyo and Yokohama, Japan, for Missionary work with the Y. W. C. A. 1912 to 1917. She returned to U. S. on furlough for two years and took extension work in New York and other cities, then returned to Japan where she organized the Y. W. C. A. work in Osaka, the second largest city in the Empire. She returned to U. S. in 1925 and took work in Columbia University, then returned to Osaka as Secretary of the Y. W. C. A. in 1926. At the present time she is in a hospital in Tokyo, from which we hope she will soon be released, well again.

- (2) Fred H. Ragan, b. in Richmond, Indiana, October 30, 1835; m. Ruth Paulsen in St. Helena, Oregon, 1911. He finished Elementary and High School in Denver and took Mechanical Engineering in Agricultural College at Fort Collins. He was in clerical work for a while, then went into the sawmilling business in the North West for nine years; where he invented labor-saving devices for manufacturing lumber and for manufacturing machines themselves. He was in Detroit four years, engaged in manufacturing different kinds of machinery. He went to Cleveland, Ohio about 1921, where he became Superintendent of the machine Department of the Columbia Axle Company.

Their two children are:

- a. Fred H. Ragan, Jr., b. 1912.

- b. James B. Ragan, Jr., b. 1915.

- 7 William H. Ragan, b. Sept. 7, 1868; m. Elizabeth Bateman, b. April 5, 1863. Will was an invalid for many years before his death, having had a paralytic stroke which left him afflicted. He was a natural mechanic.

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and during his active life he liked to work with machinery—especially saw mills, as engineer and keeping the saws in condition for doing the best work. He died in the Robert W. Long hospital as a result of complications following a serious surgical operation.

The son is:

- (1) Fred Ragan, b. March 10, 1887; m. January 28, 1911; to Emily Irene Payne, b. Dec. 5, 1889; d. July 15, 1923. Fred is an expert painter by trade and is kept busy in that line of work. He and his mother are living in Indianapolis.

One child:

- a. James H. Ragan, b. May 22, 1923; died on same day of birth.

8. Milton Reuben Ragan, b. April 24, 1865; d. October, 3, 1876. He lived with his sister after the death of his parents in 1872. He was a great favorite with his family and all his friends. He became seriously sick with malignant diphtheria and lived only a few days. If diphtheria antitoxin had been known then, and given at once, a valuable life might have been saved.

- II Sarah Ann Ragan, 3rd. child of Abner and Mary S. Ragan, was born in Mercer County, Kentucky, Nov. 28, 1822. When about three years old she came with her parents to Indiana, settling near Fillmore, Putnam County. When six years of age her mother died, then she was taken into the home of her Uncle Reuben Ragan where she remained until the marriage of her father, Nov. 15, 1852. Soon after this the family moved to their home on Rock Branch. Mrs. Grace Hadley Duckworth, of North Salem "gives an interesting account of some experiences of early settlers of central Indiana at that time. "At this time central Indiana was in its primitive state; a dense forest with few clearings. The deer would often come up and eat the spice brush that grew around the yard fence. Wild turkeys were very plentiful and could often be shot from the open door of the cabin. Each winter the "smoke house" was filled with the hams of deer and bears. Money was scarcely known. The clothing, linens &c. were made from materials spun and woven

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in the home. Shoes were made from the hides that were sent to the tan yard the year before, as it then required a year to tan the leather. The grist mill where they had their grain ground was located twenty miles south of Greencastle. On August 20, 1841, Sarah A. Ragan was married to Edmund R. Hadley, a son of James T. and Mary Richardson Hadley. They went to housekeeping on a 240 acre farm near Rock Branch that the groom had entered from the Government. They built a one room cabin with puncheon floor, a large fireplace in one end, a door on one side, and a small window covered with greased paper on the other. The furniture consisted of a few chairs, a hand made table, a bedstead and a chest or two for clothes. This, together with a few cooking utensils and dishes, comprised the furnishings of this home. Later the cabin was enlarged and a double one was built. A marvelous innovation in the way of a cook-stove was added to the furnishings of the home. As this was the first cook stove in this vicinity, people came for miles to see it. As the years went by this sturdy pioneer couple by their hard labor and honest efforts amassed a goodly portion of this world's goods.

Their farm of 240 acres gradually grew into 900 acres; the double log cabin was replaced by a substantial brick house which stood for over sixty years. Here six children, three boys and three girls, were reared, two other children having died when quite small. Their last purchase of land was a farm one mile south of North Salem, where, in 1875, they built the pretentious brick house that was constructed of brick made on the farm. In a few months after the completion of the new house Edmund, the husband, died suddenly of apoplexy, May 20, 1876. The widow remained on the farm for a number of years and then moved to North Salem where she continued to lead an active life until within a few months of her death. She died May 3, 1914, at the advanced age of 91 years; a woman possessed with keen intellect, firm conviction, a great strength of character she faced life's battles courageously. She took a philosophical view of life and never became discouraged over its trials and failure.

She became a Christian early in life. Her love for the

church was always a source of deep spiritual consolation, and her children were all brought up in the nurture and admonition of its teachings.

They had eight children:

1. Mary Jane Hadley, b. Oct. 4, 1842; d. September 2, 1922; m. Cyrus Rogers, of Clayton, Oct. 4, 1862. Mr. Rogers was a graduate of Earlham College and taught in the public schools for a few years, one year of which was at Rock Branch. The writer of this sketch was a pupil in that school. Soon after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Rogers, moved to his farm, one mile south of Danville. They lived on the farm a few years, then went to North Salem. They went to Kansas during its early history as a state, and from there they moved to Oklahoma while it was a Territory. He engaged in agriculture and raising of live stock while in the West. Mr. Rogers died a number of years ago and his wife died, 1922. They have one granddaughter who is gifted in music: one a graduate from a teacher's college and holds teacher's license in several states; another is in college preparing for teaching.

Their five children are:

- (1) Ella May Rogers, b. Nov. 21, 1863; m. Rolland L. Turner, April 2, 1882.

Three children:

- a. Charles Bryan Turner, b. January 24, 1883; d. February 26, 1905.

- b. Harold Hubert Turner, b. September 22, 1880; m. Dana Elizabeth Wells, Dec. 23, 1911.

One child:

- (a) Byron W. Turner, b. April 4, 1914.
- c. Evelyn Marie Turner, b. Nov. 16, 1900; m. Charles E. Bogle April 7, 1924.

One child:

- (1) Robert Leslie Bogle, b. September 12, 1926.
- (2) Edmund Henry Rogers, b. December 10, 1865; d. October 25, 1895.

- (3) Sarah Emma Rogers, b. November 4, 1871; d. October 19, 1895.

- (4) James Otis Rogers, b. September 4, 1874; m. Clara Dyerle, April 14, 1907.

Two children:

- a. Anna May Rogers, b. June 1, 1909.
- b. William Otis Rogers, b. December 5, 1910.
- (5) Mary Elizabeth Rogers, b. September 28, 1877; d. July 26, 1878.

2. John Elwood Hadley, b. April 19, 1845; d. Sept. 5, 1851.

3. James Abner Hadley, b. Sept. 2, 1847; d. Jan. 10, 1925; m. Louiza Jane Fleece, October 25, 1871. My association with James A. was closer than with any other of my cousins. We were together in our homes, in the public schools and one year while attending school in the Academy, at Ladoga. He was fond of working with machinery and often ran a threshing machine and corn shredder during the seasons for such work. He was always glad to lend a helping hand to those in need of assistance. After disposing of the farm on Rock Branch they lived on a small farm near North Salem. James died in Jan. 1925. His widow makes her home with their daughter, Mrs. John H. Buntent, in North Salem.

Three children:

- (1) Pearl Daggy Hadley, b. April 27, 1873; m. Elmer Duncan Oct. 25, 1891, who died several years later. Pearl's second husband was John H. Buntent, who passed away Nov. 6, 1927.

One child by first marriage:

- a. Glen Darrel Duncan, b. Sept. 22, 1897; m. Leila Thompson, Sept. 17, 1917.

One child:

- a. Robert Edwin Duncan, b. Jan. 18, 1922; d. on same day of birth.
- (2) Lennie Hadley, b. Aug. 30, 1875; m. William O. Davis Oct. 13, 1895; d. Aug. 24, 1907.

Four children:

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a Fern Davis, b. Aug. 8, 1896; m. Charles Colby, Nov. 13, 1915.

Two children:

- (a) William O. Colby, b. Nov. 12, 1916.
(b) Curtis Melvin Colby, b. March 28, 1920.

b Ruby Davis, b. Sept. 23, 1899; m. Preston Kennedy, January, 1918.

Three children:

- (a) Helen Kennedy, b. May 12, 1920.
(b) Gladys Mae Kennedy, b. Aug. 21, 1922.
(c) Joseph William Kennedy, b. Dec. 10, 1924.
c Fred Davis, b. Sept. 23, 1901; m. Nanna Mae Sloan, Sept. 23, 1923.

d Emmet Davis, b. January 29, 1906.

(3) John Edmund Hadley, b. Oct. 11, 1873; m. Pearl Robinson Oct. 14, 1902.

One child:

a James Curtis Hadley b. Sept. 30, 1905; m. Dorothy Gustin, May 12, 1926.

(a) James Gustin Hadley, b. Sept. 10, 1927.
John E. and his son, James G. Hadley are good musicians. They play the cornet. The son has played with an orchestra several years.

4 Sophia Elizabeth Hadley, b. Dec. 16, 1849; m. Solom A. Rogers March 4, 1867. Solom was a soldier in the Civil War for nineteen months. He was in the 4th Cavalry Regiment as a Dispatch Orderly. He was a graduate of Earlham College. He taught in the public schools for a few years. They remained in Indiana for a few years after their marriage, then went to Kansas where they were extensively engaged in farming and stock raising. Mr. Rogers served as County treasurer a term or two, and later was rural mail carrier for many years. Sophia E. was fond of music and could play the piano well. She died Oct. 20, 1909. She visited at our home after we came to Plainfield.

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They had four children:

- (1) Charles Edmund Rogers, b. March 16, 1870; d. Aug. 25, 1872.
(2) Evelyn Alice Rogers, b. March 3, 1874; m. William Hall, June 1, 1899.

Four children:

a Harold Hubert Hall, b. March 21, 1900; m. Beatrice Olinger April 17, 1919.

Two children:

- (a) Margaret Frances Hall, b. Jan. 17, 1921.
(b) Harold Hall, Jr., b. April 20, 1924.
b John H. Hall, b. Jan. 8, 1902; m. Elva Hames, Oct. 28, 1925.

c Ruth Maxine Hall, b. August 15, 1903.

d Eva Elizabeth Hall, b. March 27, 1907; m. William Tate in 1926.

Evelyn A. Rogers (Hall), mother of the above children, was a teacher in the public schools as well as a teacher of music for several years. Her two daughters are singers. One is a teacher in the public schools.

(3) Herbert Hadley Rogers, b. April 3, 1877; m. Maude May Moll December, 24, 1900. Herbert has been a prominent news paper man for a number of years. He is Editor of the Olatha, Kansas Mirror.

Three children;

a Geraldine Ruth Rogers, b. Nov. 11, 1901; m. John Binford June 7, 1922.

One child;

- (a) Shirley June Binford, b. June 19, 1923.
b Charles Edward Rogers, b. Aug. 13, 1904; Charles is rapidly climbing to fame in the movie world. He, with Clara Bow and Richard Allen are Stars in "Wings", a picture that is being ranked among the best. Mary Pickford and Charles have just completed a picture—"My Best Girl", that is attracting attention. The writer, recently had the pleasure of seeing the picture at Indianapolis.

c. B. H. Rogers, son of Herbert and Maude Rogers, b. August 13, 1910.

(4) Henry Bruner Rogers, son of Solon and Sophia Rogers, b. July 29, 1885; d. Aug. 5, 1909.

5 John H. Hadley, son of Edmund and Sarah Hadley, b. Jan. 29, 1853; d. Feb. 21, 1854.

6 Gillum Taylor Hadley, b. April 8, 1858; m. Harriet Kesler Sept. 27, 1877. We became well acquainted with Taylor and his wife during the three or four years they were in school at Round Town and North Salem. Taylor was a good singer and frequently lead in song at the morning exercises. Taylor owns a good stock and grain farm south of his father's old farm in Round Town. His wife, after a lingering illness, passed away July 20, 1927.

Two children:

(1) Eva Morton Hadley, b. Aug. 5, 1878; m. Oscar H. Wisheart, M. D. Nov. 15, 1899. She graduated from high school and has good training in music; taught piano for some time before her marriage. The Doctor has done a lucrative business in the practice of medicine at North Salem for nearly thirty years. They own one of the attractive homes in town.

Two children:

a Harriet Louise Wisheart, b. Nov. 27, 1907; She graduated from the North Salem High school, and is quite proficient on the violin.

b Robert Hadley Wisheart, b. Sept. 17, 1910; He also has musical talent and plays the cornet well.

(2) Grace Mae Hadley, b. July 27, 1887; m. Edgar F. Duckworth, one of the good business men of North Salem, April 6, 1910. Grace graduated from the North Salem High School, and had training in music. She taught in the public schools before her marriage.

She is very much interested in the success of the Ragan Family History, and has given valuable assistance in its preparation, not only by furnishing data but in every way that she could be of any assistance. Several of the family are anxious to become members

of the D. A. B. Society. Grace has done considerable corresponding and traced clue after clue with the hope of clearing up the way to membership in that society. It is now well attested that Reuben Samuel, our great maternal grandfather, was an officer in the Revolutionary war. A little more evidence is needed on that part of the history which will doubtless be obtained.

7 William Jarrett Hadley, b. March 22, 1859; m. Lillie Fleece, Feb. 3, 1883, who died March 27, 1896. Will was raised on the farm and continued in farm activities for some years after his marriage, but for quite a while he has been a contractor and builder in various lines of cement work.

There were two children:

(1) Fred D. Hadley, b. Dec. 4, 1883; m. Gertrude Robbins, Dec. 2, 1904.

Three children:

a George William Hadley, b. Sept. 15, 1905.

b Harold Ralph Hadley, b. July 18, 1909.

c Lillie Sue Hadley, b. Nov. 3, 1913.

(2) Merle Hadley, b. Aug. 12, 1886; m. John Adams Nov. 17, 1903; d. May 8, 1927.

One child:

a Van Dorn Adams, b. Sept. 22, 1904; m. Grace Elizabeth Thompson, Feb. 23, 1927.

Fred and his son George are both good musicians. Fred plays the cornet and George plays the flute and saxophone.

8 Eva Morton Hadley, b. Sept. 15, 1864; m. Charles W. Davis, Oct. 23, 1881. We had an opportunity of becoming well acquainted with Eva and Charley the few years they were in my schools and I always think of them as being among my best students. Charley died May 3, 1926.

Two children:

(1) Frank Edmund Davis, b. June 8, 1883; m. Opal Havens May 4, 1909.

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One child:

1. Edmund Davis, b. March 9, 1913.
- (2) Charlotte May Davis, b. Aug. 10, 1889. Lottie is fond of music; played the banjo when a little child, and later became a good pianist. She has had experience as a teacher in the public schools. At the present time she is with the Child Hygiene Division of the Indiana State Board of Health.

17. Sophia M. Ragan, was born Oct. 27, 1824; m. Dec. 4, 1853 to Robert Thompson, who was born June 2, 1811. They moved to Jasper County, Illinois, soon after their marriage. We very well remember their visits to Indiana when their means of travel was a two horse covered wagon. During the winter of 1869 and 70, father and I visited the family of Doctor Gillum T. Ragan at Neoga, Illinois. On our way home we decided to stop for a day or two at Robert Thompson's. We left the train at a new station "in the woods", near where we thought the family lived and started to walk across a pasture. We asked a woman, whom we saw in the doorway of a log cabin, to tell us the way to Robert Thompson's. She said; "Robert Thompson! We don't know any Robert Thompson around here;" then after thinking a moment, she turned to the children and said, "I wonder if they don't mean Uncle Bob Thompson?" When assured that she had guessed aright, she said, "O yes! Uncle Bob lives just over yander." Robert Thompson died Nov. 16, 1891 and his wife died July 29, 1900.

They had four children; John J., Margaret J., Abner, and William Elza.

18. John James Thompson, was married to Enola Sparks. He died when quite a young man, about twenty six years of age.

They had one son;

- (b) Ottawa C. Thompson, b. June 27, 1880; m. Edith Rough. They have had six children - four now living and two dead. Their living children are Hartzel, Enola, O. J. Thompson and William Vernon. Their home is in Baton, New Mexico.

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2. Margaret Jane Thompson, b. Oct. 10, 1856; m. Charles S. Bates, July 31, 1879, who was born March 3, 1853. Their home is in Sawyer, Kansas.

They have had five children:

- (1) A son died in infancy.
- (2) Emery Bates, b. March 31, 1883.
- (3) Everett S. Bates, b. Sept. 18, 1885; m. Lola Scholty.

Two children:

- a. John Charles Bates.
- b. A daughter is dead. Their home is in Illinois.
- (4) Callie S. Bates, b. Oct. 19, 1894; d. Aug. 10, 1895.
- (5) Howard F. Bates, b. Oct. 30, 1894; m. Nina Thom Sept. 8, 1919.

Two children:

- a. Robert Warren Bates, six years old.
- b. Virginia Bates, five years old. Their home is in Pratt, Kansas.
3. Abner Ragan Thompson, son of Robert and Sophia Thompson, deceased.
4. William Elza Thompson, son of Robert and Sophia Thompson, deceased.

19. John M. Ragan, b. March 10, 1827; d. Sept. 17, 1892; m. Louisa Jane Hadley, March 16, 1848. For a while after their marriage they lived on a farm north of New Winchester. They then moved into the Mill Creek neighborhood and remained there until about 1859 when they moved to Danville. A few years after the death of John M. Ragan his widow was married to William Homan of Danville. Some years later Mr. Homan died. After a number of years she was again married, this time to Dandridge Tucker of North Salem. We are unable to give the date of Aunt Jane's death.

There were two children by the first marriage:

1. An infant daughter died March 25, 1850.
2. Henry Oliver Ragan, b. Sept. 25, 1852, and lived about one year.

20. Mary Jane Ragan, daughter of Abner and Mary S. Ragan,

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b. March 25, 1829; died July, 1829.

REUBEN S. RAGAN, son of Robert Ragan, Sr. and Sally Samuel Ragan, was born in Virginia Oct. 5, 1793. But little is known of his ancestry except that his parents with their family of boys moved into central Kentucky, now known as Mercer County, about 1795. A few years later the parents and some of their children became victims of a fatal epidemic that was raging in that part of Kentucky. The four sons, Robert, Abner, Reuben and Thompson were left dependents upon the community in which they lived.

Reuben was indentured by the courts to Elisha Thomas, whose subsequent affiliations with the Shakers brought him into such ill repute with the authorities that his ward was removed and apprenticed to a tanner with whom he spent seven years and thoroughly mastered the trade. Meanwhile he had acquired great taste for horticultural pursuits from association with Edward Barnaby and James Munday, pioneer nurserymen of central Kentucky.

In 1815 Mr. Ragan made his first trip to Indiana, remaining in Knox and Washington Counties during a large portion of that year. In Washington County he assisted in erecting Elanor's Fort, then a frontier post. For a period of six years he spent most of his time in pioneer excursions through Indiana; remaining during the winter of 1818-19 in Putman County in what is now Washington Township. In Oct. 1821, he attended the public sale of lots in Indianapolis; and soon afterward entered eighty acres of land seven miles east of Greencastle, upon which he located permanently in the autumn of 1822. Here he began his life work as a horticulturist.

On the first of May, 1828, Reuben was married to Miss Jane Matthews, eldest daughter of Andrew B. and Amy H. Matthews. They made their home on the farm he had entered in 1822, where he remained until his death in August, 1869.

Last June we visited the homes of Clarence Ragan and his mother. Clarence is a grandson of Reuben Ragan, and owns part of the old Ragan farm. While there we were in one of the rooms of the house his grandfather had be-

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gun building in 1823. It had been remodeled and built to at different times but was in good preservation.

When a boy, our family usually made annual visits to Uncle Reuben's. These visits were often made during the strawberry season, whether by accident or otherwise we do not remember, but they were always enjoyed. It may be imagined that a bunch of healthy boys enjoyed strawberries and cream and other delectable food that Aunt Jane knew how to prepare. They owned a good sized, well cultivated farm, and raised an abundance of fruit and vegetables, besides other farm products, but they never seemed too busy to entertain their friends. A large family of children were reared on this farm, all of whom lived to mature age.

There were twelve children:

- i Nancy Ragan, b. 1829; d. 1862.
- ii Mary Ragan, b. 1831; d. 1913; m. Robert Rosebro.

Two children:

- 1 Fred Rosebro married Myrtle Long. They had no children. Fred died 1927.
- 2 Walter Rosebro.

- iii Sallie Ragan, b. 1833; d. 1869; m. Joseph Priest.

Five children:

- 1 Carrie Priest, b. 1858; d. about 1901; m. D. C. Allen. 1892.

Three Children:

- (1) Mildred Allen, b. 1855.
- (2) Bernice Allen, b. 1857; m. Frank Jones.

Two children:

- a Benjamin Jones, b. 1914.
- b Mary Ann Jones, b. 1920.

- (3) Lucile Allen, b. 1859.

- 2 Charles Priest, b. 1859; d. 1927. m. Cora Snaveley.
- 3 Lizzie Priest, b. 1862; m. Marion Allen.
- 4 Addie Priest married Alvin DeWitt Dorsett.

One child:

- (1) Dorothy Dorsett, m. Jerome Fisher.

Four children:

- a. Dorothy Dorsett Fisher.
- b. David Fisher.
- c. Dorris Elsher.
- d. Jerome Fisher.

5. Arthur Priest, m. Willa Trent.

Two children:

- (1) Constance Priest.

- (2) Harold Priest, m. Helen Benson.

iv William Henry Ragan was born in Putnam County, March 29, 1836; m. to Emma Fuller in Park County, Feb. 19, 1860. He died in Washington D. C. Aug. 6, 1909; was buried in Arlington. His wife died Jan. 6, 1897 and was buried at Greencastle, Ind. During the dark days from 61 to 65 when the country was struggling to maintain its national existence Will Henry was one of the young men who offered their services in defense of the Union. He was a member of the 11th Regiment of Indiana Volunteers. He served as Secretary of the Hospital department for some time. He was with the Regiment in the Grand Review at Washington D. C. after the close of the war.

He was not unlike many other members of the Ragan family in his fascination for the study and development of fruit. I quote what was said of him by Col. Bralsett, his Chief of Pomology, and published in the daily paper of Washington, D. C. "Mr. Ragan was Secretary of the Indiana State Board of Agriculture for ten years, and was later President of that Board. He was Trustee of Purdue University for some years and served one term in each branch of the Indiana State Legislature and though in no sense a politician, he did this at the unanimous demand of his constituents. He was a man of sterling worth, ready wit, keen insight and his versatility of pomological subjects has rarely been equaled. His death is an irreparable loss to the cause of Pomology the world over." He was at the time of death Assistant Pomologist and expert in the Nomenclature Department of Agriculture.

There were four children:

1. Sarah N. Ragan, daughter of William H. Ragan, was born in Putnam County Feb. 13, 1861; was married in Clayton, Ind. Oct. 21, 1890; to Nelson E. Woods, who was born in Clayton, Ind. June 14, 1854. Mrs. Woods died in St. Petersburg, Florida, Feb. 1, 1913. Their home for a long time was on the farm east of Stilesville where they were engaged in agriculture and horticulture. We remember of calling on them some years ago while on the way home from Clinton, Ind. and remember of being so well pleased with their home and its surroundings.

They had three children:

- (1) Mabel Woods, b. in Hendricks County, April 18, 1892; m. Oct. 10, 1906, to Will H. Swindler, of Clayton.

Three children:

- a. Charles Swindler, b. May 15, 1909.
- b. Dorothy Swindler, b. Aug. 27, 1910.
- c. Henry Swindler, b. April 27, 1922.

- (2) Arthur Earle Woods, b. July 23, 1885; m. Edith Little Nov. 8, 1916.

One child:

- a. Howard Nelson Woods, b. Sept. 18, 1917.

- (3) Ruth Agnes Woods, b. Oct. 30, 1900; m. Nov. 25, 1919, to Paul Little, who was born Dec. 27, 1898.

Two children:

- a. Howard Gordon Little, b. Oct. 22, 1923.
- b. Raymond Louis Little, May 29, 1927.

2. Sophia Jane Ragan, b. in Putnam County May 3, 1863; d. Feb. 9, 1973.

3. Anna Belle Ragan, b. in Putnam County Feb. 21, 1867; d. Oct. 5, 1917.

4. Reuben Fuller Ragan, b. in Putnam County Aug. 15, 1871; d. Nov. 11, 1882.

- v Milton Ragan, b. 1833; d. 1920. Milton was quite a reader and had a very retentive memory so that he became unusually well informed in the history of past, as well as current events. An incident occurred some years ago that is



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worth relating. A minister friend of mine, a graduate from DePauw University, was on an excursion train from Greencastle to the northern part of the state. It happened that he became the seat mate of an unpretentious stranger; the minister, just out of college, had a good opinion of his scholastic attainments and soon entered into conversation with his seat mate, perhaps just to pass the time away. It was not long, however, until the minister was listening and Milton Ragan was giving the information.

vi Harriet Ragan was born 1840; d. 1916; m. Marshal Moore of Greencastle, Ind. Mr. Moore was an attorney and practiced law for a number of years at Greencastle. A few years before Harriet's death, while in Greencastle, I called on her and enjoyed a pleasant visit with her.

vii Isabella Ragan, b. 1843; d. 1908: She was never married but remained at the home where she assisted in caring for the varied interests of a well regulated home.

viii John Wallace Ragan, b. in Putnam County in 1846; d. in 1903; m. Emma Goslin. They owned a farm one mile north of Fillmore, Indiana, part of the land that was entered by his father in the early settlement of the state. They engaged in general farming and live stock raising. When the Civil War threatened the very life of the Nation, Wallace, at the age of sixteen, offered his services in defence of the country and was placed in Co. E. of 155th Regiment of Indiana Volunteers, for a period of three months. At the expiration of his term of service he was mustered out of the army on July 23, 1863. On August 6, 1863 he re-enlisted in Co. H. of 115th Regiment, as a private. This time he served until Feb. 25, 1864, when he was again mustered out of service. This regiment formed a part of what was known as the "Persimmon Brigade." Although his health was impaired by his army service he never regretted having done his part in maintaining the integrity of the Union. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic in the Greencastle Post.

There were seven children;

- 1 Minnie Ragan, b. in 1872; d. in 1872.
- 2 Albert Ragan, b. in 1873; d. in 1880.

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3 Edith Ragan, b. in 1877.

4 Nellie Ragan, b. in 1881. Nellie is living with her mother on the farm near Fillmore. She and other members of the family have been interested in the Ragan History and have rendered valuable assistance in collecting data for its preparation.

5 Harry Ragan, b. in 1886.

6 Clarence Ragan, b. in 1889; m. Ruth Oliver in September, 1913. He owns part of his grandfather's old home farm, and has built a commodious home near the Fillmore road. He is a prosperous farmer.

They have two children;

- (1) Robert Ragan, b. in September, 1914.
- (2) Jean Ragan, b. in Feb. 1917.

7 Louisa Ragan, b. in 1893; d. in 1893.

ix James Solon Ragan, b. in 1848; d. April 4, 1927; m. Miss Ella Lisby about 1900. He was among the young boys who succeeded in getting into the Federal army before the age of sixteen. We are unable to give the history of his army service. Solon, being near our own age, we learned to know him better than other members of the family during our visits from one home to the other.

They had one child;

1 Ruth Ragan, b. in 1892; d. in 1901.

x Jennie Ragan, daughter of Reuben S. and Jane M. Ragan, was born at their Fillmore home, in 1851. She was married to Dr. John Welch, of Fillmore. They made their home at Lena, Indiana, for quite a while where he was engaged in the practice of medicine. They have both been dead several years. She passed away in 1919.

Their five children are;

- 1 Little Welch, deceased.
- 2 Edna Welch, deceased.
- 3 Nellie Welch,
- 4 Ernest Welch,
- 5 Hattie Welch, who is a teacher in California.

xi Amy Ragan, daughter of Reuben S. and Jane M. Ragan,

was born in Putman County in 1854; d. in 1910. She was married to Benjamin Nicholson.

They had two children:

1. Enola Nicholson; married Raymond Cline. Their home is in California. Enola has furnished valuable data for the history.

2. Robert Nicholson; He was married to Ida Peters.

They had four children:

(1) George Nicholson, b. 1911; d. 1911.

(2) Dorothy Nicholson.

(3) Mildred Nicholson.

(4) Robert Nicholson, Jr.

iii Howard H. Ragan, b. in 1865. The name of his wife is unknown to me. She died Feb. 1, 1927.

They have two children;

1. Edith A. Ragan, married Elmer Ludden.

One child;

(1) Bennet Ludden.

2. Otto L. Ragan, m. Lena Cavanaugh. They live in Eugene, Oregon.

They have two children:

(1) Howard Ragan, Jr.

(2) Lena Ragan.

We regret that we have been unable to procure historical data of a number of families.

F. THOMPSON RAGAN: was born in Carolina County, Virginia, 1786; m. in Virginia to Sallie Samuel, about 1800. They remained in Virginia a few years after their marriage then moved to central Kentucky and settled in Woodford County. Thompson was a millwright by trade and engaged in the milling business for a time after going to Kentucky. They lived on the Kentucky river and he operated a ferry for quite a while, which is known as the Ragan's ferry. In those early days machinery was generally operated by water power and the river furnished means for power in

his milling business. They also engaged in agriculture to some extent and were so much pleased with some of the farm products of their adopted state that they brought a fine variety of white corn to Indiana for seed. The corn matured to perfection in central Kentucky but when raised farther north under different climatic conditions it kept green and growing until time for frost, so that but little of it matured. A few years later, however, when acclimated there was not a better variety of corn in the state.

Thompson and his family, except Benjamin J. his oldest son, remained in Kentucky much longer than any of the four brothers. They came to Indiana about 1857. They purchased a tract of land from Edmund R. Haney which remained their home for a number of years. Our family frequently visited them and always received a cordial welcome; for they had the kind of hospitality so often found in southern people.

Some things connected with this family made lasting impressions in my memory; one in particular was that of their garden which, of course, had an abundance of small fruits, berries and vegetables; but the greatest attraction of all was the profusion of flowers to be found in every nook and corner; besides two large beds of flowering plants extending full length of the garden with a well kept walk between them. There were several girls in the family and it seemed that all were responsible for distinct duties, so that all was done without friction; some prepared the meals, some took care of the dining room while others did the necessary work about the house, and helped entertain the visitors. A systematic arrangement for all kinds of labor is worthy of imitation by others.

The father and mother were much past the meridian of life when we first knew them but they were not much affected by age. Their "living room" was provided with a large fireplace and in imagination I can see them sitting, one on either side of the fireplace in cool weather; Uncle Thompson, chewing "Kentucky twist tobacco" and Aunt Sally smoking her clay pipe. In those days a

great many of the older women indulged in smoking. We often watched her fill her pipe and light it with hot embers from the hearth but do not remember of seeing smoke issue from her mouth while she smoked.

Their ten children were:

- i. Reuben James Ragan, b. in Carolina County, Virginia, July 4, 1824. He came to Indiana when a young man and was married, June 22, 1854, to Phebe Elizabeth Vannice, who was born January 6, 1836. They made their home in Putnam County, until after the death of Mr. Ragan, which occurred Dec. 5, 1886. A few years later Mrs. Ragan and others of the family moved to Danville where they remained for a number of years and then went to California where she died Feb. 27, 1921. During the active years of his life, Mr. Ragan was a prosperous farmer and live stock raiser.

Their five children were:

1. Sarah Frances Ragan, b. June 12, 1855; d. July, 23, 1920.
2. Mary Katherine Ragan, b. Dec. 25, 1856; d. Nov. 3, 1913; m. Oct. 15, 1885, to David B. Taylor.
3. Lucy Ann Ragan, b. Jan. 17, 1859; m. Perry C. Taylor Dec. 5, 1878. They are now living in Roachdale, Indiana.

They have one child:

- a. Ona Taylor.

- i. Margaret Ellen Ragan, b. March 14, 1861; d. January, 1889.
- ii. James Thompson Ragan, b. Nov. 14, 1869; d. 1894.
- iii. Mary Ragan, oldest daughter of Thompson and Sally Ragan, b. 1827; d. 1905.
- iv. Robert Ragan, second son of Thompson and Sally Ragan, b. 1830; d. 1877.
- v. Elizabeth Ragan, b. 1832; d. 1881. She was an invalid for several years but recovered her health and was well some time before she died.
- vi. Emma Ragan, b. 1834; d. 1917.
- vii. Lucy Ragan, b. 1835; d. 1885.

vii. Joseph Ragan, b. 1837; d. 1858. He lived only a short time after coming to Indiana.

viii. Sallie Ragan, b. 1840; d. 1915; m. in 1877, to A. J. Sheets; b. 1851.

Their three children are:

1. Samuel H. Sheets; b. 1878; m. in 1903 to Edith Bales, b. 1887.

Their four children are:

- (1) Ernest Sheets, b. 1904.
- (2) Everett Sheets, b. 1906.
- (3) Loral Sheets, b. 1910.
- (4) Mildred Sheets, b. 1912.

Sam H. Sheets has been manager of the grain elevator at North Salem for a number of years.

2. Arthur Sheets, b. 1879; m. Myrtle Davidson in 1904.

They have two children:

- (1) Nllan Sheets, b. 1905.
- (2) Wilborn Sheets, b. 1905; d. 1926.

3. Minnie Sheets, b. 1884; m. to Robert O. Lynch, who died in 1925.

They have three children:

- (1) Hubert Lynch, b. 1908.
- (2) Cecil Lynch, b. 1910.
- (3) Mildred Lynch, b. 1912.

- ix. Ellen Ragan, b. 1842; d. 1919.

- x. Catharine Ragan, b. 1845; d. 1885.

1. Bert Ragan, b. 1879; m. Edna Bales in 1903. Edna and Edith, Sam Sheets wife, are sisters. Bert was in business at North Salem for a number of years, but the family nows lives at Indianapolis, where he is engaged in the carpentry business. He is considered a good finisher.

They have three children:

- (1) Frank Ragan, b. 1904; m. to Agnes Miller in 1927.
- (2) Fred Ragan, b. 1905; d. when three months old.
- (3) Ettie L. Ragan, b. 1911.

G. Henry Ragan, son of Robert Ragan, Sr., b. 1797, d. 1797.

Some data were received too late for earlier record in this history and are placed in this chapter.

Henry H. Mills was a student for a while in Earlham College, and was also in Michigan University. Clara K. Ragan and her sister "Dovie" spent two years in Oxford College, Ohio. Flossie, daughter of Henry and Clara Mills, attended Mills College in Oakland, California, and later was married to John H. Coverley. Mr. Coverley and their son, Harvey H. are graduates in law from Stanford University, the father graduating in the class of 1900, the son in 1924. The two oldest daughters, C. Erskine and Ruth P. Coverley will complete the course in Stanford University this year. The two youngest children, Nellie and Jack are both in school. Dovie's daughter, Mary M. (Blake), and her husband, Robert Miller are college graduates.

I shall now quote extracts from a letter recently received from Reuben S. Ragan's granddaughter, Enola N. Cline.

Copy from a clipping, dated July, 1888, reported a reunion of the Ragan Family. "These four brothers, Robert, Abner, Reuben and Thompson were sons of Robert Ragan, Sr., who was the son of Timothy Ragan, or Reagan, an Irish patriot, who fought for his adopted country in the Revolution and was wounded at Brandywine. There is little, if any, doubt that the Kentucky, afterwards, Indiana, Ragans are the same family with those of North Carolina and with Senator Ragan of Texas."

The following is quoted from a letter received by Milton Ragan some years ago from a Mr. Samuel, in Kentucky.

"There were three brothers who came from England and settled in Carolina County, Virginia; were in the Revolutionary War and at the surrender of Cornwallis—Charles Samuel, Reuben Samuel and Anthony Samuel. I do not remember the name of my great grandfather, but

my grandfather was Reuben Samuel, who married Polly Letcher of Frankfort, Kentucky in 1782."

Mrs. Cline also sent me information she received from Emily Ragan some years ago, as follows: "Reuben Samuel married Sally Slaughter, of the same Slaughter family which afterwards furnished one of Kentucky's governors (Gabriel Slaughter, 1816-1820). The children of Reuben Samuel and his wife, Sally Slaughter Samuel, were Benjamin, James, Thomas, Leonard, Preston, Edward, Reuben, Nancy, Rosamond, Martha, Francis, Lucy and Salley. The latter became the wife of Robert Ragan, Sr." Emily Ragan's mother, Sally Samuel, and her father, Thompson Ragan were cousins and lived in Virginia a few years after marriage.

The following Land Office Treasury Warrant executed by Patrick Henry, Governor, and given to Reuben Samuel November 2, 1785, is self explanatory and is given here because of its being unique in describing the land.

Copy of Land Warrant.

PATRICK HENRY, ESQ.

Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia. To All to Whom These Presents Shall Come, Greeting: Know ye that by virtue and in consideration of a Land Office Treasury Warrant #2085 and issued the 25th day of January, 1780. There is granted by the said Commonwealth unto Reuben Samuel a certain tract or parcel of land containing 500 acres, by survey, bearing the date the 2nd day of November. One thousand seven hundred and 85, Lying and being in the County of Jefferson on the water of the west fork of Floyds and bounded as followed to-wit: Beginning at a large hickory north westwardly of Benjamin Temple's land, thence S. 45 W. 244 poles to a white oak and red oak, thence S. 25 E. 226 poles to a large poplar in Benjamin Temple's line N. 65 E. 244 poles to a beech and 2 sugar trees, corner of Benjamin Temple's, thence N. 25 W. 326 poles to the beginning.

With its appurtenances To have and to hold the said tract or parcel of land with its appurtenance, to the said Reuben Samuel and his heirs Forever.

In witness whereof, the said Patrick Henry, Esq., Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, hath hereunto set his hand, and caused the lesser Seal of the said Commonwealth to be affixed at Richmond on the 2nd day of February, in the year of Our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and 85, and of the Commonwealth the 9th.

P. HENRY

A Copy Attest, CLELL COLEMAN, AUDITOR.

The above copy of the land patent signed by Patrick Henry, Governor of Virginia, is given for the historic value it contains and for the quaint method of describing the boundaries of land as used at that time. It is our understanding that this document was issued before the rectangular system of land survey was in use and

all the descriptions east of the Ohio and many of the southern States are surveyed under the old system of meets and bounds. A small portion of Indiana around Jeffersonville and skirting the Ohio river, and also a portion of territory near Vincennes is described by meets and bounds.

A Copy Attest, CLELL COLEMAN, AUDITOR.

We are loath to close these sketches without referring to some familiar scenes of early life which will be of interest to some members of the family.

The place that was cherished as the home of Abner Ragan has been cruelly dealt with by the ravages of Time. The old spring house that stood at the foot of the hill, the old barn across the vine with the pear orchard in its rear, the shade trees which surrounded the house, and the house itself that was home for the family and friends for so many years, have all been razed to the ground, leaving no evidence of former habitation.

During the early settlement of this country there were far too many "family graveyards" used. One was located on grandfather Ragan's farm. The site was unsuitable for a cemetery, being almost one half mile from any public highway, which made it necessary to pass through the farm in order to reach it. The cemetery was used, however, for a number of years and contains the mortal remains of many of the Ragan family as well as their friends. Some time after the farm passed from under control of the family the passage way to the cemetery was closed. The fact of the burying grounds being in the pasture, since the fence was removed, has caused much concern to many of the family. We realized, however, that were the grounds enclosed by a permanent fence, only a few years without some attention would make them less desirable than at present. Some have had the remains of their families removed to other cemeteries, and others have placed the names and inscriptions in memory of their relatives on monuments of their own in other cemeteries.

One or two rooms so long occupied by grandmother Smith and her family are still in use. The house is about one hundred years old. Grandmother was within a few days of ninety four years old when she died in the spring of 1875. Grandfather Smith died before I could remember him. He was a brother of Nancy Smith, the first wife of Robert Ragan, Jr., making, at least two of the

Ragan families doubly related to each other. The mammoth sulphur spring not far from the house is now confined within concrete walls but little more than two feet in diameter. When a boy in school we with other boys often carried water from this spring to the school. On these occasions grandmother sometimes asked us to sample her cookies and apples—an invitation we never refused.

The home of my parents that witnessed so many joys and sorrows as well, was begun in 1843. The home, though humble, and devoid of most modern conveniences, as were other homes of that time, was a place where industry, economy and Christian living were impressed on the minds of the children, both by precept and example. The old house may yet be seen standing on the brow of the hill over-looking the rippling brook, "the deep holes" of which furnished trysting places for the boys during the fishing and bathing seasons. The old school house is not far away where all the children played games of their choice—the boys, playing bull-pen, townball, shinney, and three-cornered-cat until the teachers came to the door and called out "Come to Books." It may be said that persons, who live beyond the age of three score years and ten, live too much in the past. That may be true in many cases, but it seems to me that persons who retain their normal mentality should realize that we are now living in the greatest age of the world's history.

The task of preparing the genealogy of our branch of the Ragan family is now completed. A period of about one hundred and seventy years has been covered by this history, and seven generations of the family have been somewhat definitely traced. We have not found a clue directing us to the trunk and to other branches of the Ragan Family Tree. While it is believed that other Ragans whom we have known are relatives of ours, in the absence of proof, we are still in doubt. The collection of data and preparing these sketches has been a strenuous ordeal, but we are glad to contribute something towards the preservation of our family history.

In the foregoing pages something has been said concerning the activities of our family along different lines of industry and education. It will be observed that the family has not been confined to anyone line of thought or industry, but on the contrary, doubtless, under the influence of environments and inclinations, it has adapted

itself to many fields of investigations, and in all of them, so far as I know, has made a creditable showing.

In conclusion we wish to speak of the moral and religious activities of the family. It has been loyal to the best interests of the country, and believes in upright living and moral rectitude. While all members of the family have not identified themselves with the church, we are sure that a large percent of them have accepted the teachings of Christ and received Him into their lives. We do not know of a skeptic or an infidel in the family. Several of the protestant churches are represented in the Ragan family; among them are the Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist and Christian churches.

As a final word, we wish again to express our lasting obligations to all who have assisted in the preparation of this meager history of our family. We are especially grateful to the management of the Indiana Boys' School and to its printing department for courtesies shown in publishing this history.



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